

Innovative Guard Program Gives Deployed Soldiers Family Time

CAMP ATTEBURY, Ind. - After a long day of work, spending time with one's family is a way to relax and unwind. However, for those soldiers being deployed this is not an option - unless of course you have access to a Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP) classroom, with its state-of-the-art technology, at Camp Attebury.

The Camp Attebury Federal Mobilization Site, in Edinburgh, Ind., is home to one of the most progressive and innovative DTTP classrooms. During the day, the classroom is used almost exclusively to assist in soldier readiness for deployment; however, in the evenings, from 1700 to 2200, DL officials have opened the classroom up as a "Cyber Café" to all soldiers interested in checking email and their military accounts, and communicating with family members. Last month, more than 3,500 soldiers did just that.

The DTTP classroom at Camp Attebury operates 12 workstations, as well as an additional four ports to accommodate laptops with dial-up modems. With mobilization there was a huge response from the soldier communities for access to the Internet because so many of the local units did not have computers in place to keep up with their admin work. "Because of the enormous response to this program, and because of the already active use of the classroom, beginning in May, classroom operation will be expanded to accommodate Guard unit interest in the Cyber Café, and for training purposes," said SPC Jason Bean, Camp Attebury Classroom Manager.

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With active mobilization taking place across the country, it is now more important than ever to keep the soldiers in close touch with family members. "Soldiers have been training so intensely during the last two to three weeks, that when they do get down time, it is energizing for them to be with their loved ones," said MAJ (Ret.) Van Shaw, DL Coordinator.

MAJ Stephan Picard, Chief, DTTP Policy & Liaison, commended Camp Attebury for the innovative use of its classroom. "Based on the initial success of the Cyber Cafe," he noted, "DL officials at Camp Attebury should be recognized for setting such a excellent example for other DTTP classrooms to follow, and for maximizing resources and comfort for their soldiers."

In January, the Cyber Café attracted 1,726 individual visits to the classroom. That number jumped to 4,730 in March

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